

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 07889 01 OF 02 091734Z

41

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

----- 057003

R 091450Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8888

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USINT BAGHDAD

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 7889

EXDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, XF

SUBJECT: ARAB DEFENSE COUNCIL MEETING

REF: BEIRUT 7837

1. SUMMARY: HIGH-RANKING GOL SOURCE SHO PRESENT AT ARAB DEFENSE COUNCIL (ADC) MEETING IN CAIRO HAS CONFIRMED OUR IMPRESSION (REFTEL) THAT GOL SUCCESSFULLY MANAGED DEFLECT OFFERS OF ARAB MILITARY ASSISTANCE. HE ALSO PROVIDED SOME INTERESTING INSIGHTS INTO POSITIONS ADOPTED BY VARIOUS ARAB DELS. END SUMMARY.

2. CALLED YESTEDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 8, ON PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER BOUTROS DIB, WHO ACCOMPANIED PRIMIN TAKIEDDINE SOLH, FONMIN NAFFAH AND MINDEF MAALOUF TO CAIRO FOR ARAB DEFENSE COUNCIL MEETING JULY 3-4. COMPLIMENTED DIB

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 07889 01 OF 02 091734Z

ON MEETING'S OUTCOME, FOR FROM PRESS ACCOUNTS IT APPEARED

THAT LEBANESE OBJECTIVE OF NOT REPEAT NOT ACCEPTING ALL-OUT ARAB MILITARY ASSISTANCE HAD BEEN ACHIEVED WHILE AT SAME TIME MAINTAINING LEBANESE POSITION IN THE ARAB WORLD. DIB SAID THAT LEBANESE HAD SUCCEEDED BUT THAT IT HAD INVOLVED ACRIMONIOUS AND OFTEN EXTREMELY TOUGH EXCHANGES WITH ARAB COLLEAGUES. PRINCIPAL PROBLEM, AND RATHER UNEXPECTED ONE, WAS POSITION OF KUWAITI FORNMIN SABAH WHO, PRIOR TO PLENARY SESSION JULY 3, HAD CIRCULATED DRAFT RESOLUTION WHICH TREATED PLO AND GOL ON AN EQUAL FOOTING AND WHICH PROVIDED FOR 50 MILLION REPEAT 50 MILLION LEBANESE POUNDS TO BE ACCORDED EACH TO GOL AND PLO ON AN EQUAL BASIS FOR DEFENSE. KUWAITI REP APPEARED TO GOL DEL TO BE MORE PLO THAN THE PLO, AND HE LED THE HARD-LINE ARABS IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS. KUWAITI POSITION WAS PARTICULARLY RESENTED BY THE LEBANESE, FOR ACCORDING TO THE LATTER, KUWAITIS SHOWED TOTAL DISREGARD FOR LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY AND ALL THAT GOL HAD DONE FOR PLO, AS WELL AS SUFFERINGS BORNE BY LEBANESE DUE TO THIS HOSPITALITY (SIC). IN PRE-PLENARY DISCUSSIONS LEBANESE REJECTED KUWAIT'S POSITION, ARGUING NOT ONLY LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY BUT ALSO FACT THAT KUWAITI GENEROSITY TO PLO WOULD JEOPARDIZE CURRENT FRAGILE PEACE ALONG BORDER AND RESULT IN ISRAELI REPRISALS. KUWAITI REP AT ONE POINT QUESTIONED LEBANESE "ARAB" STATUS, TO WHICH PRIME MINISTER TAKIEDDINE SOLH REPLIED THAT IF THIS ASSERTION WERE NOT WITHDRAWN IMMEDIATELY, LEBANESE WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT ATTEND ADC MEETING. AS RESULT, KUWAITI REP WITHDREW HIS PAPER.

3. PLENARY SESSION AFTERNOON JULY 3 WAS, ACCORDING TO DIB, RELATIVELY ANODYNE WITH EACH DELEGATION MAKING ANTICIPATED PUBLIC STATEMENTS. ENSUING CLOSED SESSIONS AT WHICH ONLY DELEGATION CHIEFS (FORNMIN AND/OR MINS DEF) WERE PRESENT, WERE, HOWEVER, ACRIMONIOUS. THEY COINCIDED WITH WORKING MEETINGS, EITHER WITH ALL DELEGATIONS REPRESENTED OR IN SMALLER GROUPS.

4. DIB DESCRIBED BEHAVIOR OF VARIOUS DELEGATIONS ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: EGYPTIANS WERE GRACIOUS HOSTS, SAYING
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 07889 01 OF 02 091734Z

RELATIVELY LITTLE BUT SHOWING UNDERSTANDING OF LEBANESE POSITION. SYRIANS WERE MOST HELPFUL IN SUPPORTING GOL POSITION. FORMIN KHADDAM ACTED WISELY AND ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS AS MODERATOR BETWEEN GOL AND SA'IQA REP MOHSEN. SA'IQA DEL, LED BY MUHSEN, WAS PARTICULARLY VIOLENT, SUPPORTING KUWAITIS AND FREQUENTLY ATTACKING LEBANESE. (AS NOTED REFTEL, MUHSEN HAS CONTINUED TO CRITICIZE GOL SINCE RETURNING FROM CAIRO.) DIB

SAID GOL DEL WAS CONVINCED THAT MUHSEN PERSONALLY
PROFITED IMMENSELY FROM "KUWAITI GENEROSITY". KUWAITI
DEL, IN ADDITION TO WHAT IS INDICATED ABOVE, ACCORDING
TO DIB, APPEARED TERRIFIED OF PLO. AT INITIAL PRIVATE
DISCUSSION, KUWAITI REP, WHEN CHALLENGED BY LEBANESE
RE RELATIVE STATUS OF PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON AND KUWAIT,
STATED THAT HIS LIFE HAD BEEN THREATENED BY PLO AND GAVE
EVERY APPEARANCE OF PERMITTING THIS THREAT TO GOVERN
HIS ACTIONS. ALGERIAN DEL UNDER BOUTEFLIKA'S LEADERSHIP
SHOWED GREAT STATESMANSHIP AS A MODERATING ELEMENT.
ON ONE OCCASION, HOWEVER, BOUTEFLIKA ADVANCED LENGTHY
LEGAL ARGUMENT RE PLO RIGHTS HAVING BEEN ACCEPTED
AT UN BUT HE FORMALLY WITHDREW HIS COMMENTS WHEN
ATTACKED BY NAFFAH, JGOL FORNMIN. IRAQ AND LIBYAN DELS
CAUSED NO REPEAT NO GREAT PROBLEMS FOR GOL IN THAT MOST OF
THEIR VENOM APPEARED DIRECTED AGAINST SYRIANS
AND EGYPTIANS FOR HAVING AGREED TO DISENGAGEMENT.
DIB SAID GOL DEL SURPRISED BY DEGREE OF THEIR
VEHEMENCE, WHICH SYRIANS AND EGYPTIANS HANDLED IN MOST
DIGNIFIED MANNER.

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 07889 02 OF 02 091703Z

41

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

----- 056643

R 091450Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8889

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USINT BAGHDAD

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 7889

EXDIS

NOFORN

5. SAUDI ARABIAN DEL WAS HEADED BY SAUDI CHIEF OF STAFF AND REPRESENTATIVE TO ARAB LEAGUE. ABSENCE OF SAUDI MINDEF SULTAN AT OUTSET CAUSED GOL DEL SOME CONCERN, BUT THEIR CONCERN SOMEWHAT MOLLIFIED WHEN INFORMED THAT SULTAN PROBABLY WAS ABSENT TO SAVE HIS PUNCH FOR SOME LATER OCCASSION, SHOULD MEETING TURN OUT BADLY.

6. DIB SAID THAT GOL DEL WAS IN TOTAL HARMONY AND THAT NON-MUSLIMS, E.E. FORNMIN NAFFAH AND MINDEF MAALOUF TOOK PAINS TO PROTECT MUSLIM PRIMIN SOLH FROM ATTACKS BY OTHER ARABS. SOLH BEHAVED MOST EFFECTIVELY, PARTICULARLY AS HE WAS SMARTING FROM EARLY KUWAITI ATTACKS THAT GOL WAS NOT REPEAT NOT BEHAVING AS AN ARAB STATE.

7. FINAL "SECRET RESOLUTIONS", ACCORDING TO DIB, CONTAINED THREE FOLLOWING CLAUSES, WHICH WERE TOTALLY ACCEPTABLE TO GOL: A) DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE WOULD BE SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 07889 02 OF 02 091703Z

BROUGHT ON "GREAT POWERS", I.E. U.S., TO PERSUADE ISRAEL NOT REPEAT NOT TO CONTINUE ACTION AGAINST LEBANON (IN THIS CONNECTION DIB POINTED OUT THAT FEDAYEEN ACTIVITY FROM LEBANON SHOULD CEASE); B) UNSPECIFIED AIF WOULD BE ACCORDED GOL IN ITS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ITS DEFENSIVE POSITION (DIB COMMENTED THAT MINDEF MAALOUF POINTED OUT THAT LEBANON'S LEBANESE POUNDS 2.2 BILLION DEFENSE PROGRAM OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS WAS A BIG BURDEN ON GOL BUT IT WOULD BE MET. IF OTHER STATES DESIRED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS PROGRAM, ASSISTANCE WOULD OF COURSE BE MOST WELCOME PROVIDED NO REPEAT NO STRINGS ATTACHED.); C) COUNCIL AGREED THAT PLO REPRESENTED PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND THAT IT WOULD BE SUPPORTED IN ITS STRUGGLE TO REGAIN HOMELAND. DIB EMPHASIZED THAT THIS HAD ALREADY BEEN AGREED TO AT ALGIERS AND THAT THERE WAS NO REPEAT NO SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO MATERIAL OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PLO IN LEBANON.

8. WE RECOGNIZE FOREGOING IS OBVIOUSLY ONE-SIDED. BELIEVE, HOWEVER, ATMOSPHERICS SET FORTH ABOVE MIGHT BE IN INTEREST, AND IT IS A RELATIVELY ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF LEBANESE DEL'S VIEWS AND IMPRESSIONS OF THE MEETING. REPEATEDLY DIB EMPHASIZED THE SENSITIVITY OF FOREGOING AND REQUESTED THAT IT NOT ONLY BE STRICTLY NOFORN BUT USED ONLY ON A NEED-TO-KNOW BASIS.
GODLEY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, MILITARY PLANS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: martinml
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BEIRUT07889
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740182-0426
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740766/aaaacerw.tel
Line Count: 223
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: BEIRUT 7837
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Aug-2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARAB DEFENSE COUNCIL MEETING
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MARR, XF, LE, ARAB DEFENSE COUNCIL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005